

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

KOLBE, Jim (Republican)
Representative, 8th District, Arizona
Elected 1984 to 99th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Evanston, Illinois - 28 June 1942

Home: Tucson, Arizona

Marital status: Divorced - 1 child

Religion: Methodist

Education: Northwestern U., B.A., 1965; Stanford U. M.B.A., 1967

Military: US Navy, 1967-69; Naval Reserve, 1970-77; served on river patrol craft in Vietnam (1968-69), awarded Navy Commendation Medal with "V" for valor. Lt Cmdr, USNR (inactive)

Profession: Real estate consultant

Political: AZ Senate, 1977-83. Defeated incumbent Rep James McNulty (D) in 1984, with 51% of the vote for the 5th District seat. Reelected in 2000 with 60% of the vote. In 2002 won with 63% in the newly drawn 8th District.

Rep Kolbe is a conservative who breaks with his party on some social issues – supports abortion rights and some gun control. Considered an internationalist and focuses on foreign aid, military sales financing and trade liberalization. In August 1996 acknowledged his homosexuality. Supported a base closure commission, but sponsored an amdt (rejected) to exempt overseas US bases from the commission's work. In the 105th Congress, appointed in March 1997 as the chairman of the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group. Defended the role of the Army's School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, stressing the role of the professional military in promoting democratic societies. In the 106th Congress called for the replenishment of munitions stocks needed to pursue the air war in Kosovo and opposed an amendment to the FY00 DoD authorization that sought to require greater military involvement in border protection and the anti-drug effort. Said DoD already contributes through such efforts as Air Force aerostats providing radar coverage against contraband-carrying aircraft. Appointed to the Mexico-US Interparliamentary Group. Expressed concern about drastic cuts proposed for NASA's Space and Earth Sciences budget. Observing that military pay has been too low for too long, stated it is clear that service members are due a significant raise. Shared concern over the possible misuse of waivers granted for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. In the 107th Congress remarked that the problem of biological weapons in Iraq is not just a US problem, but a world problem. Believed the response of the US has been "too little and too late." Promised to do what he could to ensure that military retirees receive the health care benefits they have earned. In the 108th Congress has called for the Iraqi reconstruction efforts and resources to go to non-DoD entities, stating "No country is going to put aid workers under a general."

Additional: Member, Airpower Caucus.

AF Bases: AF Plant #44 (Hughes); Coolidge MAP; Tucson MAP; prior to 108th Congress represented Davis Monthan AFB. As a result of redistricting has only a constituent interest. Base is physically located in the new 7th District.

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on: Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, Chairman; Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary; Interior